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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

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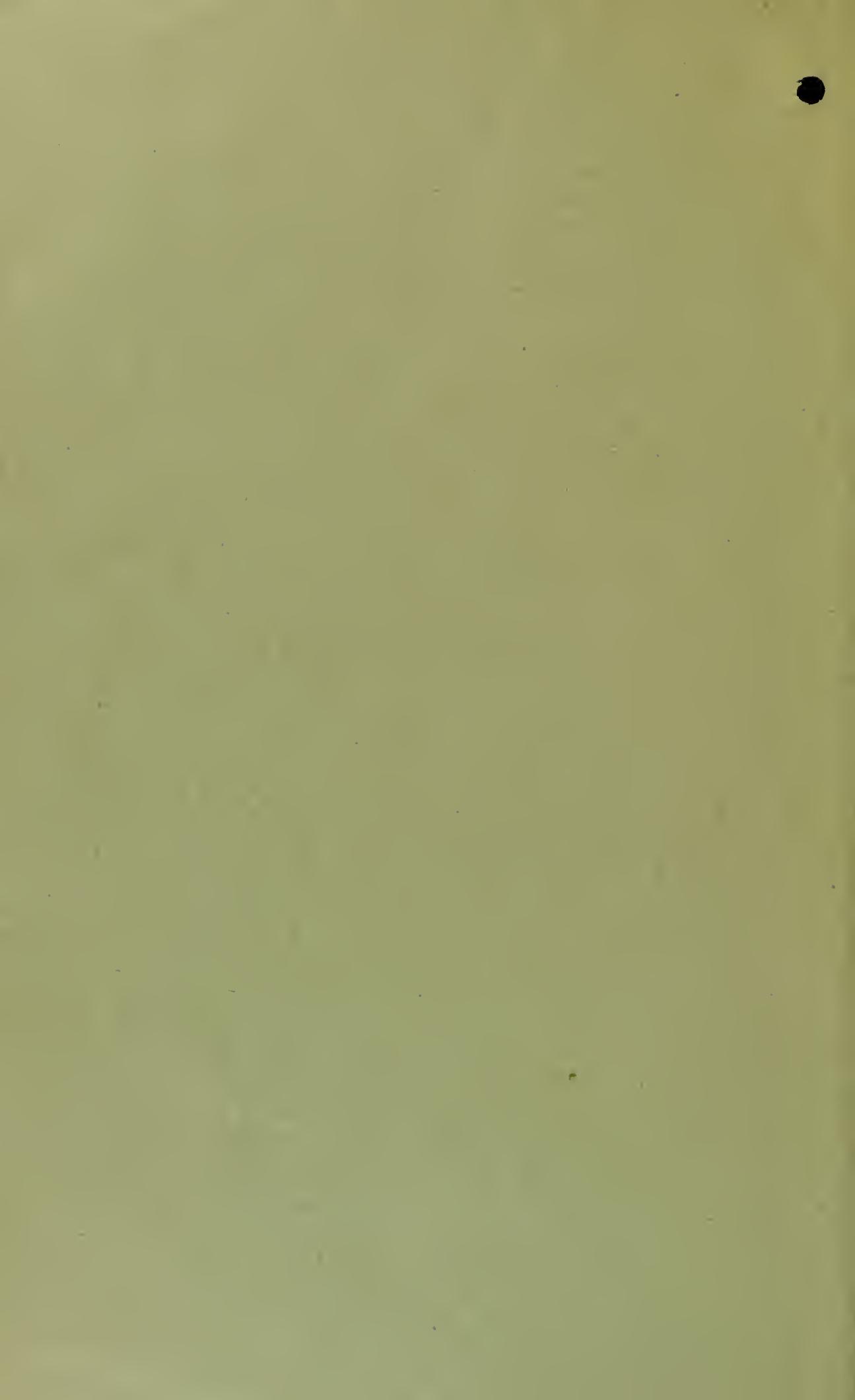
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT.

BY

F. W. J. COAKER,

F. R. C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.





ANNUAL REPORT for the YEAR 1925.

To the Bromsgrove Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1925.

NATURAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district is an extensive one in the eastern part of Worcestershire, adjacent to the City of Birmingham and Warwickshire on the east, to the industrial districts of Stourbridge and Halesowen on the north, and to Redditch on the south-east. The Urban districts of Bromsgrove and North Bromsgrove are situated in the middle of the district. It comprises 17 parishes as under :—

	Population 1921.
Alvechurch	2476
Belbroughton	1973
Bentley Pauncefoot	230
Beoley	640
Clent	1272
Cofton Hackett	391
Frankley	189
Grafton Manor	49
Hagley	1728
Hunnington	295
North Redditch	338
Pedmore	494
Romsley	650
Stoke Prior	3138
Tutnall and Cobley	609
Webheath	938
Wythall	1448
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	<u>16,859</u>

The Acreage, including inland water, is 47,047.

The estimated population is now 17,690.

The district is undulating in character, hills at Clent and Romsley rising to 900 feet in height, and with the Lickey range forming a central watershed, the Rea rising on the eastern slopes running to the North Sea, and the streams on the western side being tributaries of the Severn.

Rainfall

RAINFALL LAST 15 YEARS.

	Inches.		Inches.		
1910	32.56	1918	....	27.77
1911	27.18	1919	....	33.74
1912	44.40	1920	....	33.88
1913	32.94	1921	....	21.61
1914	34.27	1922	....	34.76
1915	37.58	1923	....	34.30
1916	35.60	1924	....	41.54
1917	36.04	1925	....	33.83

The soil is varied, being mainly Keuper marl overlying a sandstone, with beds of Bunter pebbles in various parts.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 3861.

The number of separate occupiers in 1921 was 3955.

Rateable value : £114,426. 1d. rate produces £492.

The district is mainly agricultural and residential in character, with edge tool works at Belbroughton, railway works and salt works at Stoke Prior. The occupation of the inhabitants were fully stated in the annual report of 1923.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—288 births (130 male and 158 female) were registered in the district, giving a birth-rate of 16.2 per 1000 of population. There were 8 illegitimate births.

Deaths.—201 deaths were registered in the district, giving a death-rate of 11.3 per 1000 of population.

Infantile Mortality.—The deaths of 21 infants under one year of age were registered, two of these being illegitimate. This gives an infantile mortality of 104 per 1000 births registered, which is the highest experienced during the last 5 years, as may be seen in the following table :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Birth-rate	19.0	17.0	16.6	16.0
Death-rate	10.5	10.2	10.3	11.0
Infantile Mortality	87	71	37	78

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.—The only hospital in the district is Romsley Hill Sanatorium for Tuberculosis, which is maintained by the City of Birmingham, and does not admit patients from this area. The treatment of Tuberculosis is carried out by the County Council, who maintain Sanatoria at Knightwick, Hayley Green, and Hill Top.

Infectious

Infectious diseases, viz.: Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, are treated by the Bromsgrove, Droitwich, and Redditch Hospital Committee, at Hill Top. The Small-pox Hospital formerly maintained by the Committee at Woodgate has now been demolished, and arrangements are made for treatment of this disease with a neighbouring authority.

For general cases the district relies on the hospitals in the adjacent towns, viz.: Bromsgrove, Birmingham, Redditch, Stourbridge, and Kidderminster. Ambulances are kept at most of these centres, and are available for conveyance of serious cases of sickness and accidents.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, School Inspection and Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Centres are maintained by the County Council in the adjacent towns, and are available for and made use of by patients from the district. The Midwives Act is also administered by the County Council. Bacteriological and Chemical Analyses are usually carried out at the County Laboratory at Worcester.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Mr. S. Price, whole-time Sanitary Inspector, is responsible for the whole of the district, but on account of the increase in the work Mr. Thompson has been appointed a whole-time Assistant Inspector. Mr. Thompson has, since appointment, obtained the certificate of the Sanitary Institute, and Mr. Price has obtained the certificate for Meat Inspection.

Water Supply.—In the annual report for 1923 details were given of the supply to the various parts of the district, and it seems unnecessary to repeat them now. However, as important work which has been carried out in the past five years is required to be noted, the completion of public supplies to two of the larger villages may be alluded to. These are the extension of the East Worcestershire supply to Alvechurch, and the extension of the Stourbridge Water Board supply to Belbroughton. The public supply to Belbroughton village having proved to be such a boon, an extension is proposed to the hamlet of Broom Hill.

The water supplied by the four Public Companies, viz.: East Worcestershire, South Staffordshire, Stourbridge Water Board, and City of Birmingham, to the greater part of the district continues to be satisfactory in quantity and quality. 155 houses have been connected to the public mains during the year.

Scavenging.—Hagley has for some years been the only parish scavenged by the authority, but urban powers for these duties have been obtained for Cofton and North Redditch. Other parishes will doubtless be dealt with as occasion arises. The chief difficulty is in the provision of suitable tips.

Drainage.—Extension of sewers are being made as required to new houses, and in consequence extension to the disposal areas have been needed at Hagley, Alvechurch, and Webheath. A large factory is being erected at Hunnington, and proposals to build houses on garden city lines are being formulated. If these proposals fructify drainage facilities must be provided in this area. The black spot of the district is at Wythall, where the combination of wells and cesspools in small gardens will lead to disastrous effects in the course of time. Drain clearing sets have been provided for use in most parts of the district. Stoke Prior disposal works are taxed to their utmost capacity, and should soon be reorganised. Clent disposal works require careful watching. There are now the following sewage disposal works in the district : (1) Alvechurch draining Alvechurch village, Barnt Green, part of North Bromsgrove, and part of Cofton ; (2) Clent ; (3) Cofton, draining Rednal district and part of North Bromsgrove ; (4) Hagley works at Hagley and Blakelaw ; (5) Stoke Prior ; (6) Webheath. In addition North Redditch drain into the Redditch Urban Council's area, and Pedmore into the Stourbridge Drainage Board's area.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The details of the inspections carried out in the district will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which is appended.

HOUSING.

Building of new houses is active in most parishes in the district with the exception of Bentley. Grafton Manor, which was mentioned last year as being dormant, has had plans for 7 new houses presented and passed. 142 new houses were erected during the year, of which 97 were eligible for subsidy. No fresh housing schemes have been proposed by the Council, but 198 were built by the Council under the Addison scheme. As evidence of the growth of the district, the following number of houses built during the last 7 years is instructive :—

Year.	Houses built.
1919 26
1920 99
1921 115
1922 156
1923 84
1924 135
1925 142
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Total 757

This gives an average of over 100 per year, compared with an average of 47 in 1904, 1905, and 1906, and an average of 35 in 1912, 1913, 1914.

Details of the housing inspections will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report annexed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following notifications were received during the year :—

	Cases notified.	Sent to Hospital.	Deaths
Small-pox	—
Scarlet Fever	37 31 nil.
Diphtheria	16 14 5
Enteric Fever	— — —
Pneumonia	3 — —
Encephalitis Lethargica (Sleepy sickness)	2	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	15	12 13
Other Forms	3 3 6

I beg to thank the Inspectors for their valuable help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. J. COAKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR. ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

Infectious Disease.—No. of houses disinfected after notifiable disease, 42 ; T.B., 6 ; Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected or destroyed 2 ; disinfection after 1 case Cancer, 1 case Whooping Cough, 2.

Houses.—No. of houses erected, Byelaws 45, Subsidy 97, total 142 ; other buildings—Cowsheds 1, Stables 2, Bakehouse 1, Shops 7, Garages 13, total 24 ; additions to existing buildings, 19 ; plans approved, 208 ; No. of houses erected 142 ; No. of Houses inspected, 405 ; No. of houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders, 40.

Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.—No. observed, 12 ; No. dealt with, as insanitary, 5.

House Drains.—No. laid or relaid, 48 ; No. trapped, ventilated, and repaired, 9 ; No. of obstructed drains dealt with, 6 ; No. of house drains tested, 48 ; No. of insanitary lavatories, sinks, and urinals rectified, 4 ; No. of urinals on licensed premises inspected, 39 ; No. of dumbwells rectified, 7 ; drain cleaning sets provided to 13 parishes.

Water Closets.—No. of additional w.c.'s provided, 21 ; No. repaired, ventilated, and supplied with water, 23.

Privies and Ashpits.—No. of pail closets and privies converted to w.e.'s, 20 ; No. converted to pail closets, 1.

Scavenging.—No. of houses from which refuse was removed, 627 ; No. of privies and ashpits cleansed, 176 ; No. of portable receptacles cleansed, 854 ; No. of loads of ashes and excrement removed, 901 ; house refuse removed fortnightly in Cofton and North Redditch, weekly in Hagley.

Water Supply.—No. of wells sunk, 38 ; No. of wells cleansed and repaired, 4 ; No. of wells closed as polluted, 38 ; No. of houses supplied from waterworks during year, 155 ; No. of samples of water sent for analysis, 72 ; No. of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with, 41.

Slaughter Houses.—No. registered, 20 ; inspected half-yearly ; byelaws in force thoroughly carried out.

Factories and Workshops.—No. under inspection, 56 ; inspected yearly.

Purveyors of Milk.—No. of, 64.

Dairies.—No. registered, 109 ; inspected yearly ; approximate number of cows in district, 1470.

Cowsheds.—No. registered, 109 ; inspected yearly.

Canal Boats.—No. of boats inspected (for registration or otherwise) 52.

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.—No. of cases of removal on notice, 2.

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.—No. of removals, 53.

Clerical Work.—No. of preliminary notices served, 150.

(Signed.)

SPENCER A. PRICE,

Sanitary Inspector.

21st July, 1926.

Causes of Death in the Bromsgrove Rural District, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only.)					MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes					106	95
Measles					1	1
Whooping Cough						1
Diphtheria					3	2
Influenza					3	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system....					7	6
Other tuberculous diseases					4	2
Cancer, malignant disease					10	9
Rheumatic fever						2
Diabetes					1	1
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.					7	3
Heart disease					13	18
Arterio-sclerosis					6	5
Bronchitis					3	4
Pneumonia (all forms)					6	5
Other respiratory diseases					4	3
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum					2	2
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)					2	
Appendicitis and typhlitis					1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis					2	
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition						1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth					5	4
Suicide					1	
Other deaths from violence					3	
Other defined diseases					22	24
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—						
Total					12	7
Illegitimate					2	

Total births, 130 male, 158 female; Legitimate 126 male,
154 female; Illegitimate 4 male, 4 female.

Population, 17,690.



